

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-07 DRC-01 /103 W
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P R 161150Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5789

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSMACTHAI

JCS WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

COMUSSAG NKP THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 5406

FOR STATE/AID

E.O. 11652: AGDS DECLASSIFY 4/16/76

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB

SUBJ: RICE SITUATION

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE RICE SUPPLY/DISTRIBUTION SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH FOR ONE WEEK PERIOD APRIL 1 THROUGH APRIL 7. ROUTES 4 AND 5 ARE OMITTED SINCE THESE TWO LOC'S CONTINUED TO BE CLOSED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD.

APRIL 1 APRIL 2 APRIL 3 APRIL 4

BEGINNING STOCK	37852.7	37096.8	36094.1	39602.6
MEKONG	-	-	4304.4	-
TOTAL AVAILABLE	37852.7	37096.8	40398.5	39602.6
LESS DISTRIBUTION	714.8	977.5	769.7	716.3
BALANCE	37137.9	36119.3	39628.8	38886.3

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ADJUSTMENT (-) 41.1 (-) 25.2 (-) 26.2 (-) 3.1

BALANCE	37096.8	36094.1	39602.6	38883.2
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APRIL 5 APRIL 6 APRIL 7

BEGINNING STOCK	38883.2	37886.0	37136.2
MEKONG	-	-	-
TOTAL AVAILABLE	38883.2	37886.0	37136.2
LESS DISTRIBUTION	888.7	927.1	-
BALANCE	37994.5	36958.9	37136.2
ADJUSTMENT	(-) 108.5 (PLUS) 177.5	-	-
BALANCE	37886.0	37136.2	37136.2

2. GKR'S STOCK POSITION. AT COB APRIL 7, RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH TOTALLED 37,136 M/T; OR A 57-DAY SUPPLY. ON THE SAME DATE, 13,000 M/T WERE HELD IN RESERVE AT KOMPONG SOM.

3. DISTRIBUTION. AVERAGE DAILY DISTRIBUTION OUT OF PHNOM PENH STOCKS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD WAS 713.4 M/T AS OPPOSED TO 606.8 THE PREVIOUS WEEK. WE DO NOT BELIEVE PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THIS SUDDEN INCREASE SINCE IT COINCIDES WITH THE FIRST WEEK OF THE MONTH, ALWAYS A PERIOD OF PEAK DEMAND COMPOUNDED THIS TIME BY THE APPROACH OF THE BUDDHIST NEW YEAR HOLIDAY. SOME AREAS DREW THEIR FULL MONTH QUOTA IN THIS FIRST WEEK. CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES RECEIVED A SPECIAL ALLOCATION OF 580 M/T, AND ANOTHER 351 M/T WAS BACKHAULED FROM PHNOM PENH TO UTAPAO.

4. ARRIVAL. THE REGULAR MEKONG CONVOY OF APRIL 3 BROUGHT IN 4,304.4 M/T OF PL-480 RICE TRANSHIPPED IN SAIGON, AS FOLLOWS:

RA NO.	VESSEL/BARGE	TONNAGE
721	HF-12805	200.4
721	HF-12938	273.6
721	SAIGON 101	655.3
721	7.104	434.1
721	BATTY C-1	868.0
721	DONG HAI	623.0
724	SINCERE ORIENT	1,250.0
TOTAL:		4,304.4

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THE NEXT MEKONG CONVOY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE PHNOM PENH APRIL 13 WILL CARRY APPROXIMATELY 8,000 M/T INCLUDING MOST OF THE RICE THAT HAD BEEN IMPOUNDED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AT THE BORDER BY VIETNAMESE CUSTOMS.

5. RICE AIRLIFT. THE SHIPMENT OF 500 M/T TO KOMPONG CHOM BY AIR AMERICA C-123'S WAS COMPLETED ON APRIL 8.

6. RICE BACKHAUL. THE DOD-SPONSORED TRUCK CONVOY OUT OF SAMAE SAN ARRIVED ON SCHEDULE AT BATTAMBANG APRIL 9 AND RETURNED TO THAILAND THE NEXT DAY WITH 320 M/T. BECAUSE OF INCREASED AIRDROP REQUIREMENTS SORAPA/BATTAMBANG HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REBAG IN 80 KILO SACKS A TOTAL OF 900 M/T EVERY MONTH.

7. THE BATTAMBANG RICE SURPLUS NOW IN GOVERNMENT HANDS AMOUNTS TO 33,000 M/T AND IS EXPECTED TO REACH 40 TO 50,000 M/T BY MID-MAY SINCE GKR'S PURCHASING AGENCIES ARE NOW AUTHORIZED TO BUY AT THE PREVAILING MARKET PRICE IN BATTAMBANG (THAT AUTHORIZATION ENABLES THEM TO BUY MORE). THIS RICE IS TO BE HAULED BY TRUCKS TO KOMPONG CHHNANG AND THEN TRANSFERRED TO RIVER CRAFT FOR THE JOURNEY DOWN THE TONLA SAP RIVER TO PHNOM PENH. MANY OBSTACLES,

HOWEVER, STILL STAND IN THE WAY OF MOVING THIS RICE TO PHNOM PENH, SUCH AS:

- A. INADEQUATE COORDINATION WITH THE GKR;
- B. INSUFFICIENT TRUCKS ON THE BATTAMBANG TO KOMPONG CHHNANG RUN;
- C. MONOPOLY OF FREIGHT RATES AND MOVEMENT BY THE KHMER ASSOCIATION OF RIVER CARRIERS.
- D. COMPETITION FOR SPACE ON TRUCKS AND RIVER CRAFT WITH PRIVATE MERCHANTS BRINGING IN SMUGGLED GOODS FROM THAILAND.

WE HAVE FORMED A COMMITTEE WITHIN THE MISSION TO HELP THE KHMER SOLVE THIS SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT PROBLEM.

DEAN

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